

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claim 15 will be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein; claims 16-28, 30, 34 and 37 will be amended, and claim 39 will be added, whereby claims 1-15 and 29 will be canceled claims, and claims 16-28 and 30-39 will be pending. Claims 31 and 33 are independent claims.

The claims have been amended to cancel independent claim 15; to change the dependency of dependent claims that directly depend upon claim 15 to directly depend upon claim 31; to place method claims 37 and 38 more in accordance with standard U.S. practice; and to add claim 39 directed to a bundle of cables.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Response To Restriction Requirement

Claims 34-38 stand withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected invention. In response, Applicants request rejoinder of these claims upon allowance of the claims under examination.

Moreover, newly-added claim 39 should be examined with the elected group of claims, or at least joined with the claims under examination upon allowance.

Response To Allowable Subject Matter And Rejection

Applicants note that the Office Action indicates that claims 31-33 are allowable and that claims 15-28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaffer et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,916,393, in view of Riedel et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,631,073.

In response and without expressing any agreement and/or acquiescence with the rejection of record and while preserving Applicants' right to present the canceled subject matter in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications, Applicants note that the claims have been

amended herein to cancel rejected claim 15, and to amend the dependent claims to depend directly or indirectly from allowed claim 31. Accordingly, each of the pending claims should be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants request the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections of record, and allow each of the pending claims.

All amendments to the claims which have been made in this Amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that an early indication of allowance of the application be indicated by the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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September 24, 2007
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